CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

No. 55 March 8th, 1960.

DENMARK

Roman Catholic Pastoral Letter on Week of Prayer.

For the first time the Roman Catholic Bishop in Denmark, Bishop Th. Suhr, has issued a pastoral letter on the occasion of the ecumenical Week of Prayer. In the letter the Bishop says that the unity of all Christians is more important than any political or financial unity and calls for earnest and determined prayers for the realization of this unity, a unity which is already now evident "in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church standing united on the rock on which it was founded by Christ, and in the infallibility of its doctrinal authority and its sacraments". But the unity is not fully developed, the Bishop writes, because the Christians are divided into different communities for which division the Roman Catholics also have their share of responsibility, and the Bishop continues:

"We must repent because we and those who have gone before us are partly responsible for the division among the Christians. We have often confused tradition with old habit firmness in principles with lack of understanding. We have often condemned the thought of the heart which God alone can fathom.

We have not always been ready to acknowledge those Christian values which are to be found among other Christians and for which we ought to have thanked God. We have been much too inclined to regard ourselves as possessors instead of accepting the gifts of God with humility and gratitude and passing them on in the same spirit."

The "Church Visiting Tour" in Copenhagen arranged every year by the St. Alban and St. Sergius Society one evening during the Week of Prayer had to be doubled this year, the churches to be visited not being big enough to accommodate the many followers wanting to join in the supplications for the unity of the Church. The tour began in a Danish Lutheran church, went on to a Methodist, an Orthodox, a Roman Catholic and an Anglican church, and finally wound up in the church hall of the Swedish church where the meaning and importance of baptism were emphasized by representatives of the various denominations. Altogether around 1,000 people took part in the tour.

Newly Founded "Humanistic Union" Opposes Religious Influence in Schools.

On the initiative of a public school teacher, Mr. Erik Elten, a "Humanistic Union" has been founded in Denmark with the purpose of

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Society Founded "Humanistic Union" Opposes Religious Influence in Schools.

On the initiative of a public school teacher, Mr. Erik Eiler, a "Humanistic Union" has been founded in Denmark with the purpose of

'working for an ethical-humanistic outlook on life not based on any confession".

Among other things, the Union will work for replacing Church confirmation by youth festivals and will agitate for civil marriages and interments without ecclesiastical assistance. Its most immediate object is to make the religious instruction in schools purely informative and devoid of any Christian message. A letter to this effect bearing 70-80 signatures, several well-known names among them, has been addressed to the Curriculum Committee of the Ministry of Education. The letter expresses the wish for an instruction in comparative religion in the higher classes and feels that the pupils should be given a "clear understanding that the problems of family and society may be considered in the light of humanistic as well as Christian ethics".

According to the Education Act the religious instruction in schools must be "in accordance with the Evangelical-Lutheran teachings of the Lutheran National Church"; a Ministry of Education regulation of 1941 says that the instruction should aim at "strengthening the chrildren's appreciation of Christian and ethical values"; and an educational order of 1942 states that the subject should "develop the religious trend of the children and make them realize the importance of religious instruction to the human conduct of life". At a meeting last autumn the Minister of Education, Mr. Jørgen Jørgensen, said about the matter that when the law makes participation in religious instruction optional for pupils as well as teachers it follows that such instruction should be of a positive nature.

The move by the "Humanistic Union" has been widely commented upon in the Press. The Social-Liberal newspaper "Politiken" and the Social-Democratic "Aktuelt" express a certain sympathy with the Union while others dissociate themselves more or less emphatically from its views. Thus the Conservative "Berlingske Tidende" writes, among other things:

"It ssems an illogical and mistaken conclusion from the point of view of the "Rational Humanists" themselves if their idea is not to give more time in the school curriculum to Christianity than to, for instance, the great religions of the East. The Christian ideals and the Humanism of Western Europe are conceptions that cannot be separated. It is impossible to weaken the one without also harming the other."

Professor Mogens Phil, himself a declared atheist, opposes the campaign and points out that the demand for a neutral religious instruction constitutes an encroachment on the liberty of the teachers. Besides giving an instruction as fair and to the point as possible the teacher of religion must be free to tell his pupils about his own faith, the Professor writes in the daily paper "Aktuelt".

International Architects' Competition for New Church.

With the support of the Ministry of Church Affairs an international competition of architects will be arranged shortly for a new church to be erected in connection with a tower block building project in Brøndbyøster, a suburb of Copenhagen. The plan is to invite the world-famous Swiss-French architect, Mr. Le Corbusier, and possibly also other internationally prominent architects to sit on the committee of judges.

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llen Nielsen Wants to Remain in China.

A reply from the 88-years old Danish missionary in China, Miss llen Nielsen, to the renewed invitation by the Danish Missionary So-iety to return to Denmark to spend her last years here (CN No. 54) has ow been received and, as expected, was a definite "no, thank your!" he invitation was sent through the Danish Embassy in Peking which has lso forwarded the answer. Miss Nielsen writes that she wants to "re-ain with her dear Chinese".

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A deputation from the Christian Film Association in Denmark has pproached the Parliamentary Committee dealing with a Bill introduced y the Ministry of Justice and with the request that no children under years should be admitted to the ordinary films for adults. At the ame time they recommend grants and support for the production and show-ng of special children's films.

So far there has been only one age limit, a number of films having een prohibited for children under 16, but the Parliamentary Committee ow proposes the introduction of yet another age limit of 12 years so hat certain films might be shown for children from 12 to 16 years of ge.

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In an article in the periodical "Baptisternes Ugeblad" the Editor, r. Johs. Nørgaard, suggests that young men who for reasons of conscience ject to military service should be allowed to do relief work in under-eveloped countries for the same length of time which they would other-ise spend in camps for conscientious objectors in Denmark. The sug-estion first appeared in a letter to Government from a group of con-cientious objectors' complaining of the monotonous and depressing kind f work to which they are assigned and Mr. Nørgaard supports both the justified complaint and the positive suggestion contained in the letter.

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Request for Relaxing Admittance to Children to Adult Films.

A deputation from the Christian Film Association in Denmark has approached the Parliamentary Committee dealing with a Bill introduced by the Ministry of Justice and with the request that no children under 15 years should be admitted to the ordinary films for adults. At the same time they recommend grants and support for the production and showing of special children's films.

So far there has been only one age limit, a number of films having been prohibited for children under 16, but the Parliamentary Committee now proposes the introduction of yet another age limit of 12 years so that certain films might be shown for children from 12 to 16 years of age.

Pacifistic Objectors on Relief Work in Underdeveloped Countries?

In an article in the periodical "Baptisternes Ugeblad" the Editor, Johs. Nørregaard, suggests that young men who for reasons of conscience object to military service should be allowed to do relief work in underdeveloped countries for the same length of time which they would otherwise spend in camps for conscientious objectors in Denmark. The suggestion first appeared in a letter to Government from a group of conscientious objectors, complaining of the monotonous and depressing kind of work to which they are assigned and Mr. Nørregaard supports both the justified complaint and the positive suggestion contained in the letter.

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Rev. P. Dolmer admits that 97% of the population belong to the nish National Church and are baptized, confirmed and buried in the urch, but goes on to say that a very large part of the 97% "live far ay from the belief in God, are utterly and shockingly indifferent out Him, never giving Him a thought, live in direct opposition to s will as revealed in Christ and, in the case of a very great number, parently also die in this indifference and unbelief". He maintains at "to the average person the post war years have meant a complete osening of all ties with any kind of positive Christian faith and at the position of the Lutheran National Church has never been weaker an at this moment." He feels, however, that a certain questioning titude and longing for a meaning with life, for a God to believe in, worship and to obey, seems to be noticeable.

Further down the article continues: "The strength of the position the Church in the nation does not depend on the number of people ptized, but on the number of baptized who believe". And Rev. P. Dolr goes on to urge the Bishops to take the lead in calling the 97% to pentance and faith.

FINLAND

1,6% of Men in Helsinki (Helsingfors) Not Attached to Any Church ommunity.

According to the Swedish weekly "Församlingsbladet" no less than 1,6% of all men in Helsinki (Helsingfors) do not belong to any relious community. Recent statistics show that in 1958 6,726 persons n the Capital resigned from the Lutheran National Church. The Finnish ongregations lost 2 % and the Swedish congregations app.0,6% of their embers. That the number of married men among those who resigned is emarkably big may be explained by the fact that church taxes, as well s other taxes, are paid by the head of the family so that no church axes are to be paid if he resigns, although the rest of the family reains members of the Church and thus receive free ecclesiastical serice. In 1958 times were hard and unemployment great in Finland and his is no doubt the reason for the many resignations from the Church hat year.

lackening of Ban on Public Entertainments on Days of Prayer.

A Finnish Parliamentary Committee has proposed that the ban on ublic entertainments on the annual four Days of Prayer should be somehat eased, suggesting that while the ban should be retained unaltered n Christmas Day, EasterSunday and Good Friday, permission should be iven on the Days of Prayer for art exhibitions, sports events not disurbing to Church arrangements, theatre plays, concerts, and similar vents, provided they do not infringe on the nature of the Days of rayer.

By tradition these Days are ordered by Government and each year the President of the Republic appeals to the nation to unite in prayer n those days.

outh Campaign in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

This month a youth campaign is taking place in the Swedish congregations in Helsinki (Helsingfors). The campaign is especially aiming t the young people who have been confirmed during the past five years,

e. 3,500 young men and women from 15 to 20 years of age, all of whom .ll receive a personal invitation to the events of the campaign, either rough a friend from their own group of candidates or through the mi-.ster or some other congregational worker; and, so far as possible, per-)nal calls will be made on each young person. The campaign has been ıder preparation for a considerable length of time by parish youth)rkers.

ebate on Sterilization of the Mentally Deficient.

In the last numbers of the periodical "Nya Argus" a debate has een going on about the sterilization of mentally deficient persons, iving totally different points of view as represented by a psychiatrist ıd a social service expert. The psychiatrist, Dr. C.A. Borgström, ad-)cates sterilization for reasons of eugenics, while the social service xpert, Dr. Margit Törnudd, maintains that, sterilization being an in-ıman measure in itself, it should be applied in exceptional cases only, ıd then only for social reasons. Dr. Borgström points out that most eeble-minded people have either a father or a mother who are mentally eficient themselves, while Dr. Törnudd believes this to be true only in minor number of cases.

Commenting on the discussion the daily paper "Hufvudstadsbladet" rites:

"Not long ago the world has witnessed the dreadful examples of hat the zeal for eugenics and a mania for sterilization may lead to. ast experience urges the greatest caution in this respect. Steriliı-ation is of such vital consequences to the individual and fundamentally uch an inhuman operation that it must never be generally employed in he fight against mental deficiency as long as the medical and social ervice experts are not agreed on its necessity and effectiveness. That t may be unavoidable in certain cases is another matter."

uilding a Mosque in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

This year a Moslem congregation in Finland is going to build a ive-storeyed office block in Helsinki (Helsingfors) which will also nclude a mosque for the services of the community, consisting of a arger domed hall for the men and a smaller detached hall for the women.

The greater part of the Moslem community in Helsinki (Helsingfors) re descendants of Moslem soldiers brought to Finland in the last century s part of the Russian garrison in the country. Already at that time a 'mullah" (priest) was stationed in Helsinki (Helsingfors) to minister to oth the soldiers and the Tartarian merchants trading in Finland.

ively Discussion on Albert Schweitzer.

In Finland as in many other countries Albert Schweitzer has found n ever increasing number of friends and admirers in the course of years. lso in the Finnish congregations numerous lectures have been delivered n his lifework and philosophy. Laymen, at least, seldom go very deeply into his theological conceptions, and, for instance, the fact that he is very reluctant to kill an animal, even such animals as flies and mosquitos carrying pathogenic germs, is regarded more as a fad, to be excused in so great a man as Schweitzer.

However, in an article in the religious newspaper "Kotimaa" a prominent Christian educationist, Dr. Martti Miettinen, now opposes the

ncritical admiration of Schweitzer which may also be found in church rcles. Dr. Miettinen writes, among other things:

"Schweitzer has been placed on a pedestal as a model of fine and ble Christin piousness. To anyone familiar with his theological views is has been so painful that the time has come to do something about it. ccording to Schweitzer Jesus was neither the Messiah promised and sent / God, nor the mediator of sinners or Saviour. A religious view based n such a conception of Jesus is not, quite obviously, the same as ristianity. Schweitzer is predominantly a representative of moral nceptions and an ethically valuable outlook on life. But even the blest and most wonderful morality is not the same as Christianity. f Schweitzer had included the offence of the Cross in his work, he would t have obtained the world-wide admiration and fame now attached to im."

Many of Schweitzer's admirers have protested against the article d tried to show that on the contrary he is Christocentric in his views. rom theological quarters it is maintained that on certain points of his eligious conception Schweitzer is close to Indian mysticism and that, s a scholar of divinity, he is actually passé.

eekly Church Paper to Everybody in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

As from the beginning of this year the congregations of the innish Lutheran National Church in Helsinki (Helsingfors) have started joint weekly paper called "Kirkko ja Kaupunki" (Church and City) which s distributed free of charge to everybody in the Capital.

NORWAY

pirited Ecumenical Debate.

In the past month another extremely spirited debate on ecumenical atters has taken place in Norway. From several sides the Lutheran Na- ional Church has been directly requested to withdraw from the World ouncil of Churches, the latter being said to be influenced by liberal heology and having a false conception of the Church.

In a short article in the religious papers "Vårt Land" and "Dagen" he Bishop of Oslo, Bishop Johannes Smemo, deals with the sharp attacks irected against the World Council of Churches. Among other things, the ishop writes:

"I, for one, must declare that I do not know of any such changes n the development of the Council that I should deem it justified to esign from membership at this time. I am quite aware that a number f churches affiliated with the Council and some individual persons onnected with the work of the Council express theological and ecumeni- al viewpoints to which I do not agree and of which our Church cannot nd ought not to approve. But this must not determine one's attitude o the World Council of Churches - the determining factors must be the onstitution of the Council, its official documents and actions and its pecial character in total. And from this point of view there never as been or is at present anything to prevent the Norwegian Church from oth being able to and bound to acknowledge a membership in common with he majority of the larger Lutheran Churches all over the world. So ar the Norwegian Bishops have been of one mind in this respect and I ave not heard that any of them have changed their views."

In a couple of leading articles the President of the Norwegian Missionay Council, Secretary-General Tormod Vågen, has explained the reason for the Missionary Council's opposition to an integration of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches. He feels that it would be a calamity for foreign missions to become members of the World Council of Churches, and he, personally, cannot recommend, either, that the Norwegian Missionary Society accepts a status of consultative member of the Foreign Mission Commission to be set up under the World Council of Churches.

Replying to a number of the recent attacks on the World Council of Churches, the head of the Norwegian Institute for Inter-Church Relations, Rev. Henrik Hauge, in three leading articles appeals to the members of the Norwegian Missionary Council to reconsider the possibility of accepting a consultative status instead of breaking completely with the foreign mission committees of the International Missionary Council with which they have hitherto co-operated, since such a status would hardly involve a closer connection with the World Council of Churches than the present one with the International Missionary Council.

Commenting on the discussion the weekly "Vår Kirke", published by the Oslo Home Mission, writes:

"With all due respect for the great expert knowledge and wisdom of the sceptics it is difficult to understand their position. In ordinary everyday life it is absolutely necessary for us, both as a Church and individually as persons, to talk with and co-operate with groups and individuals whose convictions are far removed from ours. And this while at the same time continuing steadfastly "in the apostles doctrine and fellowship," and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers", according to our conception of these matters as based on our Church tradition. How else would it be possible to compare the Kingdom of God to the growth of a mustard seed and the leaven which leavens the whole lump of dough? Could it be that fear of contamination is greater than faith in the power of the gospel, faith that it is worthwhile to give expression to one's convictions?"

Bishop Smemo Opposed to Ordination of Women.

Referring to the unrest in the Swedish Church on account of the approaching ordination of three women, the "Aftenposten" in Oslo has asked Bishop Johannes Smemo about his views on the matter, to which he answered:

"In my opinion the ordination of women is not in conformity with the word of God. It is not right to force through a new scheme of this nature so long as opinions differ so widely within the Church itself. No good will come of such a struggle."

Church Service to Emigrants.

In the last ten years 32,000 Norwegians have emigrated, 23,000 of them to the U.S.A., and so far nothing has been done on the part of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church to bring these emigrants in touch with the Churches in their adopted countries, apart from what the Norwegian Seamen's Churches in other countries have been able to do. Now, however, the Norwegian Bishops have set up a special committee to find the best possible solution to the emigrants' problems of Church contacts. In the first place a pamphlet will be published and issued to all emigrants.

...

lergymen Still Being Elected to School Boards.

One of the consequences, among others, of the new Norwegian Educa-ion Act is that clergymen no longer are ex officio members of the lo-al school boards and that teachers similarly are not entitled to having representative on the board. However, according to the Christian daily aper in Oslo "Vårt Land", clergymen and teachers are still being elect-d in great numbers.

ishops' Appeal on Account of Shortage of Clergymen.

The Bishops of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church have issued appeal to their congregations, and particularly to clergymen, teachers, nd youth leaders, drawing attention to the shortage of clergymen begin-ing to make itself felt already now and certain to become acute in the ext few years. This is due partly to a too small influx of divinity udents in the last few years, partly to an exceptionally great number clergymen retiring during the 1970'ies. The Bishops call for prayers hat the Lord of the harvest will send forth the labourers, and empha-zing the counselling of the young on this point of such vital import-nce to both the Church and the nation.

On approaching the various Bishops, the Christian daily in Oslo Vårt Land" learns that the shortage is already noticeable in several ioceses in as much as no applications have been forthcoming for some acant livings.

Last month the Norwegian Government introduced a Bill proposing that eople graduated from the Seminary of the Norwegian Missionary Council at tavanger should be allowed to apply for office in the Norwegian Lutheran ational Church although not holding a theological University degree. he Bill applies to some 100 "mission ministers" trained at Stavanger rom 1921-1951, all "mission ministers" later than 1951 having been raduated from the University.

Also in the Methodist Church in Norway there has been a shortage divinity students in the past few years, the President of the Church, . E. Anker Nielsen, tells in the "Vårt Land".

ews in Brief:

With 72 votes against 22 the Council Meeting of the Norwegian Mis-n Covenant Church have recommended to the General Assembly, which is to e place next summer, that in the future women should have the right of ote. An amendment to this effect has been attempted several times be-re, but to no avail.

The "Evangelical Lutheran Church" in the U.S.A., which is of Nor-egian origin, now plans to build a church in Oslo for Americans living ere. The church will seat 350 people and contain 12-15 other rooms r various church activities.

The Norwegian television, not yet quite completed, has appointed a rmanent church staff member, Rev. Sverre Syvertsen, who is to act as sistant programme controller. The Norwegian Bishops' Conference has rthermore sanctioned a grant towards conducting a course with the pur-se of finding suitable church material for television programmes.

The Norwegian "Church Paper" advocates the abolition of the special erical ruff used in the Lutheran Churches in Norway, Denmark and cer-in parts of Germany. It is akward to wear, dates back to the 17th ntary, and leaves many people with an impression of a dignity of the st, the paper writes.

SWEDEN

elp to Underdeveloped Countries through Foreign Mission Channels.

Several Members of Parliament belonging to four different political arties, have brought in a motion that the Swedish foreign missionary ocieties should be in charge of part of the money granted towards help o underdeveloped countries. Attention is drawn to the great education- l work being done by the missions, including vocational schools, hos- itals and other institutions run by the missions, and the suggestion for part of the money to be spent on further extensions of this work. he missionaries already know the language of the country in question id will make it easier to get into contact with the population and, ecause of their intimate knowledge of the people, can assist the re- ief committee in choosing suitable candidates for scholarships for rther training in Sweden.

Whether the motion will be carried is still uncertain, but it seems ikely that Sweden will increase her contribution very considerably to- rds relief to underdeveloped countries. The Liberal Party has moved increase to a total of 27,500,000 Swedish crowns.

edish Mission Church in the Congo Becomes Independent.

The Church on the mission field of the Mission Covenant Church the Congo will shortly become independent. An agreement has been awn up to the effect that the Mission Covenant Church recognizes e Evangelical Church in the Republic of the Congo (as regards the lgian Congo: the Church of Christ in the Congo) as an independent urch with full authority and self-government. The Congo Church in rn recognizes the Swedish missionaries as representatives of the ssion Covenant Church, charged with the task of the evangelization the Congo in co-operation with the Evangelical Church. The mission rk is to be completely integrated into the Congo Church, the Mission venant Church handing over all its property to the new Church.

,000 People to Study Ecumenical Matters.

The religious study associations in Sweden have resolved to set up udy groups on ecumenical matters all over the country, the goal being ,000 members of such study circles, according to the Rev. Åke Zetter- rg, dean of Stockholm, in a statement to the "Svenska Dagbladet". é decision was made at a 3-days' course in Stockholm last month, ranged by the Joint Council for Christian Studies. This Committee formed by 6 religious study organizations connected with theran National Church or the Free Churches, and represent altogether 0,000 study circle members. The ecumenical studies will be concerned th the ecumenical organizations, further with the characteristics of e factors keeping the denominations apart.

tualism in Free Churches an Illogical Copying?

In the periodical "Kristet Forum" and later in an interview in e "Svenska Dagbladet" the well-known Free Church Professor Erik Ingel- am, Stockholm, who is a member of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church, rongly opposes the ritualism which, he says, is quickly worming its y also into the Free Churches. A liturgy containing pompous and ri- alistic elements may easily tempt a minister to use archaic language,

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for part of the money to be spent on further extensions of this work.
missionaries already know the language of the country in question
will make it easier to get into contact with the people, can assist the re-
sues of their intimate knowledge of the people, can assist the re-
committee in choosing suitable candidates for scholarships for
ther training in Sweden.

Whether the motion will be carried is still uncertain, but it seems
ely that Sweden will increase her contribution very considerably to-
ds relief to underdeveloped countries. The Liberal Party has moved
increase to a total of 27,500,000 Swedish crowns.

dish Mission Church in the Congo becomes Independent.

The Church on the mission field of the Mission Covenant Church
the Congo will shortly become independent. An agreement has been
wn up to the effect that the Mission Covenant Church recognizes
Evangelical Church in the Republic of the Congo (as regards the
gian Congo: the Church of Christ in the Congo) as an independent
rch with full authority and self-government. The Congo Church in
n recognizes the Swedish missionaries as representatives of the
sion Covenant Church, charged with the task of the evangelization
the Congo in co-operation with the Evangelical Church. The mission
k is to be completely integrated into the Congo Church, the Mission
venant Church handing over all its property to the new Church.

000 People to Study Denominational Matters.

The religious study associations in Sweden have resolved to set up
dy groups on denominational matters all over the country, the goal being
000 members of such study circles, according to the Rev. Åke Bette-
"s, dean of Stockholm, in a statement to the "Svenska Dagbladet".
decision was made at a 3-days' course in Stockholm last month,
anged by the Joint Council for Christian Studies. This Committee
formed by 6 religious study organizations connected with
dish National Church or the Free Churches, and representing altogether
0,000 study circle members. The denominational studies will be concerned
h the denominational organizations, further with the characteristics of
ctors keeping the denominations apart.

ritualism in Free Churches an Illogical Copying?

In the periodical "Kristet Forum" and later in an interview in
"Svenska Dagbladet" the well-known Free Church Professor Erik Lugn-
, Stockholm, who is a member of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church,
rongly opposes the ritualism which, he says, tendentiously worming its
y also into the Free Churches. A liturgy containing pompous and ri-
listic elements may easily tempt a minister to use archaic language,

the Professor maintains, who prefers to regard the minister as a teacher and educationist rather than a representative of God. On the whole he describes ritualism as an illogical copying of conditions in the Lutheran National Church. Any development giving prominence to the ecclesiastical office will also constitute a threat to lay contributions, he feels, and to the emphasis on a universal priesthood.

The weekly paper of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church, the "Svensk Veckotidning", deals with the matter in a leading article in which it is pointed out that a ritual means a fixed order of service or some other religious function, and that as far back as to the first Christian congregations such orders have existed. Among other things, the paper writes:

"It seems as if the opposition to an order of service in fact is an opposition to God Himself as the God of order, as well as an attempt to turn back the clock to the time when the Free Church community formed a pious group of people within the Lutheran National Church and therefore did not need to think of any special order of service, as it was taken for granted that the National Church would remain and take care of such matters. In taking the consequences of being a Free Church, itself administering the sacraments and gathering the congregations for services, one should not ignore the deep religious and spiritual needs expressed in the order of service."